

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Camping



Spending a night on the St. Croix or Namekagon rivers can be a rewarding way to experience one of the first wild and scenic rivers to become a part of our National Park System. There are several ways to camp along the Riverway. State parks, forests, and private campgrounds offer many amenities while primitive shoreline campsites offer a more rustic experience.

Developed Campgrounds

Located in state or private areas, these campgrounds provide tent and car camping. Many of these large camping areas include such amenities as showers, dump stations, water, modern restrooms and more. Fees are charged at developed campgrounds and reservations are required for state parks and at most private campgrounds. State forest campgrounds are first come, first served.

Minnesota information:
DNR Information Center
651-296-6157
www.dnr.state.mn.us

Wisconsin information:
State Park Camping
888-947-2757
www.dnr.state.wi.us

Office of Tourism
651-296-5029
www.exploreminnesota.com

Department of Tourism
800-432-8747
www.travelwisconsin.com

State Campgrounds near the Riverway

Minnesota:
Afton State Park
Chengwatana State Forest
Minnesota Interstate State Park
St. Croix State Forest
St. Croix State Park
Wild River State Park
William O'Brien State Park

Wisconsin:
Governor Knowles State Forest
Willow River State Park
Wisconsin Interstate State Park

Primitive Shoreline Campsites

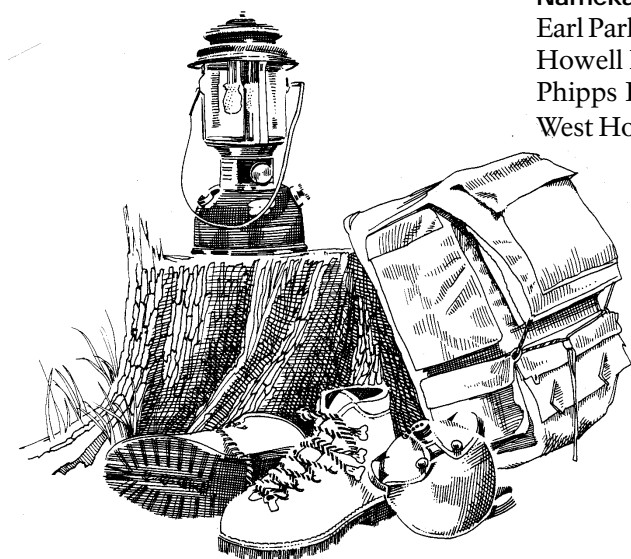
The National Park Service provides many individual campsites right on the river. Most of these campsites are accessible only from the water; some offer walk-in sites, and all include a fire ring, a clearing for tents and primitive toilet. Picnic tables and water are located at some sites. Check section maps, available at landings and on the Riverway website, www.nps.gov/sacn, for locations. Individual campsites accommodate up to 8 people and 3 tents. Group campsites accommodate up to 16 people and 6 tents. There is no camping fee or reservation system.

Walk-in Campsites

These sites are for tents only. Gear must be carried from your vehicle to the campsite. Walk-in campsites are available a short distance from parking areas at the following locations:

Namekagon River
Earl Park
Howell Landing
Phipps Landing
West Howell Landing

St. Croix River
County O Landing
Norway Point Landing
Nelsons Landing
Old Railroad Bridge
Riverside Landing
Sandrock Cliffs
Sunrise Ferry Landing



Overnight Stays

Camping Upstream of the Hydroelectric Dam

There is a three-night limit at each campsite on the St. Croix River, north of the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls, and on the entire Namekagon River. Section maps showing the location of campsites are available at Riverway Visitor Centers or from the Riverway website: www.nps.gov/sacn.

Camping Zones Downstream of the Hydroelectric Dam

Camping zones are designated from Highway 8 to Stillwater, Minnesota, as specified on this map. Please do not camp in closed areas. These have been closed because of overuse, erosion, or the presence of sensitive natural or cultural resources. There is a seven-night limit at all sites between the hydroelectric dam in Taylors Falls and Stillwater, Minnesota.

Camp Lightly

As demand for recreation continues to increase, pressure on natural areas such as the St. Croix Riverway has become more intense. Visitors practicing low impact camping techniques are very important to preserving the natural character of the Riverway. The following tips will make your trip more enjoyable and help preserve the Riverway resources.

Plan Ahead

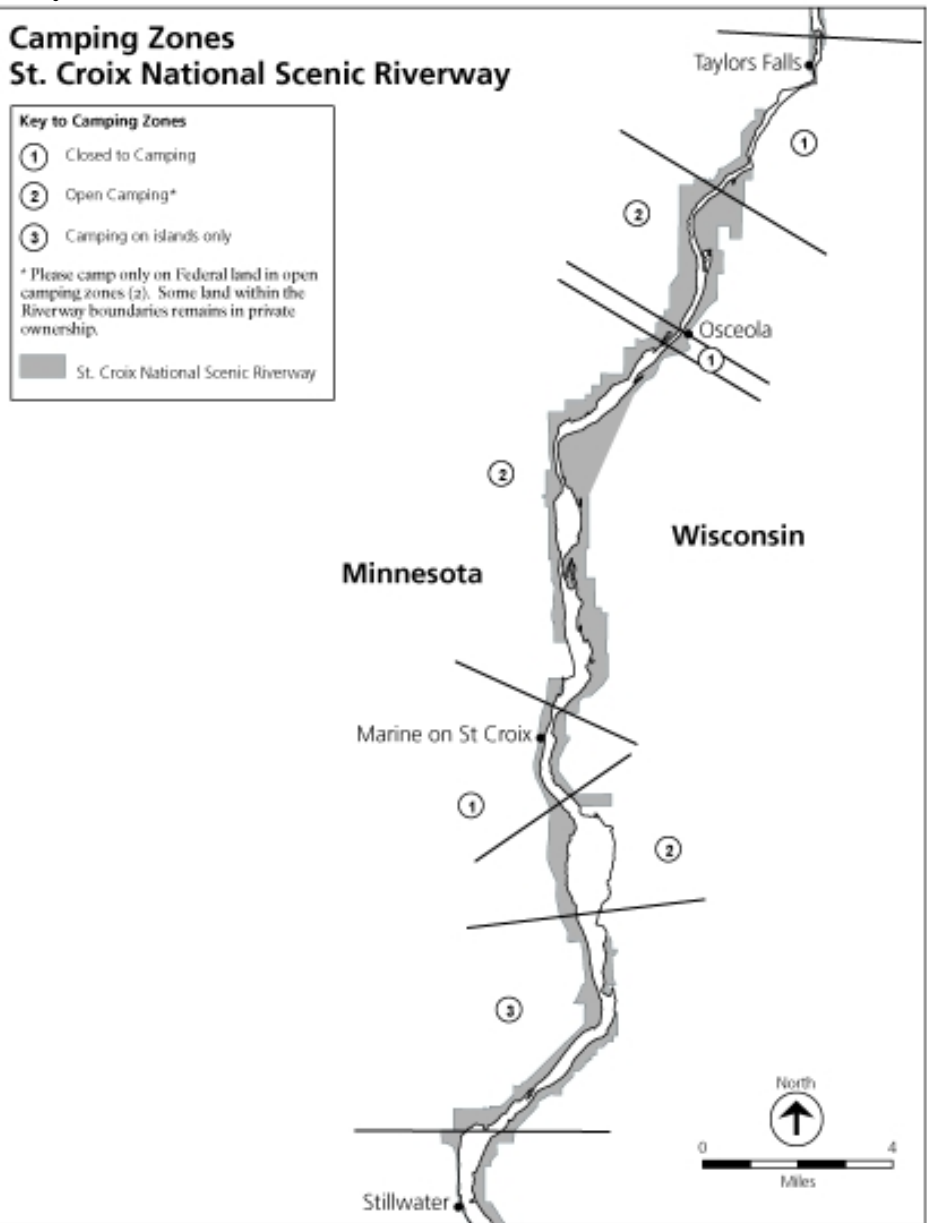
Consider camping on week days to avoid crowds. Plan meals carefully to reduce waste. Repackage food to minimize the amount of containers and trash. **Glass beverage containers are prohibited on lands and waters within the Riverway.** Please use plastic or aluminum containers and recycle them. Take the proper equipment with you to wash dishes including biodegradable soap. Please scatter your dishwater far enough away from the river and your camping area so that it will not flow back into the river.

Use Established Sites

Use designated campsites on the Riverway. In camping zones from St. Croix Falls to Stillwater, it is best to camp at sites that have history of use. These sites are noticable because they have lost vegetative cover. Confine travel to established paths around the camping area.

Fires

Upstream from the hydroelectric dam near Taylors Falls/St. Croix Falls, fires are permitted in metal firerings only. Picnickers and campers may only collect dead and down wood for use. Firewood may not be gathered on any island in the river. Campers are encouraged to bring their own wood.



Please be aware that invasive forest pests such as gypsy moths and emerald ash borers can be spread by infested firewood, so burn all wood you bring.

Carry Out Trash

Bring a trash bag with you so you can carry out all trash. Trash and recycling receptacles are available only at visitor centers. Do not leave trash in fire rings or toilets.

Store Food Properly

Animals are attracted to the smell of human food. Keep the wildlife wild by hanging all food and garbage in a tree at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk. At walk-in campsites, store food in coolers, out of sight, in the trunk of your vehicle. Strain waste from dishwashing water. Then scatter the water away from your campsite and the river.

Human Waste

All primitive shoreline campsites upstream of the hydroelectric dam have toilets. If a toilet is not available when you stop along the river, dig a six inch deep hole at least 100 feet from water and paths. Toilet paper and feminine hygiene products should be packed out in a plastic bag. Urinating in the river is prohibited.

By practicing these simple techniques, you can do your part to preserve the beauty of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

For more information contact:
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
P.O. Box 708
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
715-483-3284
www.nps.gov/sacn

